

OBITUARY



ERNEST NEAL CORY, SR.
Honary Member ESW
1965-1979

Ernest Neal Cory was born in 1886 in New York State and came to Takoma Park with his family at an early age. He entered Maryland Agricultural College, now the University of Maryland, and graduated in entomology in 1909. His teachers were Thomas B. Symons, Arthur B. Gahan, and Leonard M. Peairs. Peairs left Maryland but he and Cory remained close friends many years.

Cory was at once employed at Maryland in nursery inspection, Experiment Station research, Extension and teaching. In 1913 he earned the Master's degree. In 1914 on Dr. Symons appointment as Director of Extension, he became State Entomologist, which entailed regulatory work, and Head of the Department of Entomology and Zoology, which entailed research and teaching.

There were the old pests, San Jose scale, codling moth, mosquitoes and house fly to engage his attention. Then a succession of new ones: oriental fruit moth, Mexican bean beetle, European corn borer, Japanese beetle and alfalfa weevil. San Jose scale as an orchard pest had made the State of Maryland insect conscious and brought about the establishment of the State Horticultural Board and active entomological work. Possibly his "favorite" pests were those of shade trees and shrubs because he loved gardens and helped to beautify homesteads with azaleas.

In 1926 he was awarded the PhD degree in entomology by American University.

Dr. Cory's principal interest was teaching. In 42 years he had 150 graduates. On retirement in 1956 he said, "You can work on a problem and save someone thousands of dollars, and it's all over. The real satisfaction comes in teaching men who go out and make names for themselves in the field."

I remember Dr. Cory's teaching me to mount aphids and mites and to study "red spider" in the greenhouse. He gave me freedom to rearrange the beetle collection, which seemed to me very big. And finally he spent considerable time teaching photography to Elizabeth Hook (the first four-year co-ed at Maryland), Toady Riggs, and me.

He joined the Entomological Society of Washington in 1911. He took his students to meetings frequently and made short talks. I remember going with him to a meeting in 1920; I believe it was in the large auditorium at the Smithsonian. Dr. Cory was elected President in 1942 and Honorary member in 1965.

The American Association of Economic Entomologists long claimed Cory's activity. He was elected to membership in 1910 and served on many different committees and boards—beekeeping, nursery inspection, the Journal. He served as secretary, and business manager of the Journal of Economic Entomology 1936 to 1952. In 1947 he was President and gave as his retiring address, "Totalitarian Insects," comparing the totalitarian nations

of Europe and Asia, defeated in World War II, to the social insects—honeybee, ants, and termites.

Dr. Cory with his wife, Bess, were gracious entertainers at their home and clubs. He excelled in Maryland cuisine. Two other interests endeared him to his associates, these were orchids and painting. Ernest became an expert in orchid culture and helped other growers over the country with insect and mite pests.

He painted both in oils and watercolors, following the talent of his father Azro J. After retirement he painted some 125 Christmas cards annually. He honored me with 15 cards on successive Christmasses.

Dr. Cory's wife, the former Elizabeth Colton Elder, died in 1965. Dr. Cory spent his last years with his son, Ernest, Jr., and his wife, Ann, at their home on Corn Islans, Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Dr. Cory died January 27, 1979. His ashes were placed in the family plot at St. John's Episcopal Church, Beltsville.

Theodore L. Bissell, *3909 Beechwood Road, Hyattsville, Maryland.*